

THE GREAT ITALIAN HISTORIAN.
Come Canto on the New Exigencies of Universal History.

FLORENCE, Dec. 26. I have just received from the great Italian historian the notes of two lectures lately delivered by him in Milan on "The Exigencies of Universal History." The *Secolo*, which reports these lectures in a most interesting manner, and whose tendencies and principles are so antagonistic to those of the lecturer, nevertheless speaks of his person and character with the greatest respect, and of the lectures themselves with admiration.

As I informed the readers of THE SUN in one of my last letters, the wonderful man at the aged of 65, has set about editing his great work on Universal History, a task which imposes upon him the necessity of revising the first volume, containing a number of errors, and adding a new one to the series.

One of his first actions, which kept him confined to his bed for months last summer, and the principal task assigned to him at the head of the National Exhibition of Milan, and the Geographical Congress assembled in Venice, seems to have concentrated on Cesare Cantù's unenviable share of public interest. The name of Lombardy, among whom it was born, and indeed all northern Italy, were suddenly stigmatized by the danger of losing him. They were surprised to see him provide so gracefully over the fine art department of the Exposition, and now they are quite enthusiastic at behold him, with all the buoyancy of youth, beginning over again in a manner the gigantic literary labor which won him such undying fame 40 years ago.

At the urgent solicitation of all that is most distinguished in letters, science, and society in Milan, the venerable historian was prevailed upon to lecture in the great hall of the Historical Society of Lombardy—a society created by himself—on the changes and additions which the progress of science and altered social conditions require him to make in his great work. These two lectures—most unusual in Italy, and ordinarily but poorly patronized—had an extraordinary success, and are justly considered to be a literary event of uncommon significance.

The first was presided over by the Prefect of Lombardy, and the lecture had scarcely begun when hundreds of students and admirers of the lecturer sought to find admittance to the densely crowded hall. This eagerness to hear Cesare Cantù still more remarkable at the second lecture, on account of the growing popularity of ladies who had secured their places, and begged at the tea-meeting bodies and learned societies wished to hear the eloquent historian explain his own principles and method. For Cesare Cantù, eminent as he is as an orator, has never been heard in public since he resigned his place in the Senate, and the other were spoken of.

He reminds them that he was the first to advocate the cause of the United States.

Toussaint rapidly on the Byzantine empire and the Middle Ages, he warned his hearers that the name of the one and the other were spoken of.

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